

DOE Weekly Field Memo – August 12, 2009

From the Department of Education:

- **Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT) Workshop October 7**
- **Restrictive Behavioral Practices**
- **BEST/Act 230 Grant Applications for FY 2009-2010**
- **H1N1 (Swine Flu) School Resources**

Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT) Workshop October 7

Audience: Health Educators, Nurses, Counselors, SAP, Administrators and/or Curriculum Coordinators

This workshop, facilitated by a trainer from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), will give school districts an opportunity to become familiar with HECAT, the Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool so they can then conduct a clear, complete, and consistent analysis of their school or district health education curricula based on the National Health Education Standards, Characteristics of Effective Health Education Curricula, the Vermont Health Education Standards and Grade Expectations. For more information, visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#hecat>. Schools are strongly encouraged to bring a team including health educators, counselors, nurses, SAPs, an administrator or curriculum coordinator. Registration deadline is September 9.

Contact: Donna McAllister at (802-828-1636) or donna.mcallister@state.vt.us

Restrictive Behavioral Practices

Audience: All

The United States Department of Education (USDOE) is asking states to review their policies, regulations and practices regarding the use of seclusionary time-out and physical restraint. Several years ago, the Vermont Department of Education (VTDOE) published a set of guidelines for these topics entitled, *Model Policy on Restrictive Behavioral Intervention*. Currently, a representative group of Vermont's education community, family support personnel and disability advocates has begun to meet to review our guidelines and make recommendations about other steps to be taken to address this topic. On or before August 15, the USDOE will contact the VTDOE to review what exists, and any actions underway regarding the use of restrictive behavior practices in Vermont. Please read the linked guidelines below and make sure all staff are aware of these guidelines. In the fall we may have further requests or suggestions to ensure all our students are free from the inappropriate use of restrictive behavior intervention, while maintaining the highest standard for school safety for all. Visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/resources/model_policies.html#restrictive.

Contact: Richard Boltax at (802) 828-5125 or richard.boltax@state.vt.us

BEST/Act 230 Grant Applications for FY 2009-2010

Audience: Superintendents, Special Educators, Business Managers

Act 230 (reauthorized as Act 157) requires that every local school district have an educational support system for children who require additional assistance in order to succeed in the general education environment. Based on the initial successes of the Vermont Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) effort, the commissioner has designated PBS as the priority area for use of these funds. All BEST/Act 230 Grant Applications must be electronically signed by the superintendent, submitted electronically and approved before funds are expended. They may be submitted immediately but no later than **September 15, 2009**.

For more information go to: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_ess.html#best_230.

Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us; Richard Boltax at (802) 828-5125 or richard.boltax@state.vt.us

H1N1 (Swine Flu) School Resources

Audience: All

The Vermont Department of Education is supporting the Vermont Department of Health in informing Vermont schools about the H1N1 (Swine) influenza. School administrators, staff, parents, students and community members should contact the Vermont Department of Health or visit the federal site flu.gov for the latest H1N1 guidance. Visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_media/H1N1_planning.html to view department communications and links to key information Web sites.

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.